



**Office of the Attorney General
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NEWS RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS
UNDER \$21 MILLION DRUG COMPANY AGREEMENT**

Healthcare professionals and medical research facilities have until June 15 to apply for part of a \$21 million grant resulting from a drug company agreement with 50 states attorney general's offices, including Tennessee and the District of Columbia.

The grant money is part of an agreement reached by the attorneys general with Warner-Lambert, a division of Pfizer, Inc., on May 13, 2004. The agreement stems from allegations Warner-Lambert conducted an unlawful marketing campaign for the drug Neurontin® that violated state consumer protection laws. A special committee of state attorneys general will administer the grant program geared to consumer and prescriber education programs.

The Special Committee includes representatives of the Attorney General's offices from Florida, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Vermont; and two rotating members: currently Maine and Washington State. The Special Committee has hired the Center for Evidence-based Policy at Oregon Health & Science University, based in Portland, Oregon, to assist in grant administration.

The Attorney General Consumer and Prescriber Education Grant Program will fund programs designed to provide health care professionals and consumers information relating to prescription drugs, the way in which drugs are marketed. Grants are offered in several rounds. The first round focused on prescriber education. To achieve greater geographic diversity, the Special Committee will consider funding up to another four grants in the supplemental round concerning the way drugs are marketed to health care professionals and consumers.

Subsequent rounds will focus on consumer education and other topics selected by the Special Committee.